

FALL MAY FATHER ALASKA SCANDAL LIKE TEAPOT DOME

Secretary's Friend, Doheny, and Associates May Get Rich Concessions.

NEW FIELD IN NORTH.

Jugglery in Wyoming May Partially Aid Mondell, Republican Leader.

(Special to The Evening World.)
WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The future over Teapot Dome in Wyoming and other oil fields by private interests since Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall was given control by executive order will probably be duplicated soon when valuable concessions in Alaska fall into the lap of Fall's friends. Representatives of the Bureau of Mines, of the Interior Department, who have recently been in Alaska, making a survey, have reported to the Secretary of the Interior that there is oil there on land which comes under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department. Small wells have been brought in near enough to the coast to be accessible and the geological experts say that the supply exists in this territory in quantities which will compare favorably with some of the best fields in the United States.

This is good news to Edward L. Doheny and other oil interests which have the ear of Secretary Fall.

The understanding in Washington is that Doheny's representatives are not following up the report of Dr. H. Foster Bain, Director of the Bureau of Mines, and other Government representatives who were in Alaska on this mission. Doheny is said to be assured of valuable leases, if his experts find that oil is there in commercial quantities sufficient to justify his building pipe lines to the coast to get the oil out. There seems to be little doubt on this score.

FALL'S FRIENDSHIP FOR OIL MAN WORTH \$400,000,000.

There is an interesting story of a lifetime friendship back of the Do-

heny-Fall relations. More than thirty years ago "Al" Fall, a young Kentucky lawyer, dropped into a small New Mexico mining town and hung out his shingle as a practicing lawyer. Shortly thereafter a redheaded, aggressive Irishman named "Ed" Doheny showed up in the same town. Fall and Doheny became firm friends. Fall chose politics and the law as his route to fame, while Doheny confined himself to mining operations. Doheny has become immensely wealthy. He is reputed to be worth \$400,000,000.

Fall rose through successive political grades to the United States Senate and then was honored by a Cabinet post under President Harding. The warm personal friendship with Doheny has never weakened. It was the strong influence of Doheny and his associates with the Administration which insured Fall's selection for the Interior portfolio. He was a "dark horse" and no one outside the oil representatives in Washington anticipated his appointment. Fall was named and Doheny and his friends have got practically everything they wanted at Washington since that time.

PRIVATE INTERESTS GET HOLD OF NAVAL RESERVE.

An executive order, surprising everybody except the oil men, was prepared a few months after President Harding was inaugurated and approved by the President when submitted to him, turning the naval oil reserves over to Fall's department. They were taken away, without advance notice, from the Navy Department, which had always successfully resisted the encroachments of outside interests. Private interests had for years schemed to get control of the naval oil reserves without success, but success was now crowning their efforts.

When the rich Teapot Dome naval reserve in Wyoming was turned over secretly to the Mammoth Oil Company—a Sinclair property—last April for exploitation there was a loud chorus of protest from over the country when the deal became public. Independent oil interests of Wyoming made themselves heard in complaint. Fall's friends defended the contract, claiming it was the smaller independent oil companies raising the howl and that they wanted the field thrown open to competitive bidding so that leases could be secured and traded and Teapot Dome made a speculative bonanza. It was said in Fall's behalf that he wanted "big people" capable of handling a big venture on a business-like basis given control. As one subordinate of Fall's expressed it, "Fall had the guts to do it and he went ahead."

TEAPOT DOME SCANDAL THREATENS MONDELL.

The independent oil companies kicked long and vigorously. They kept the wires hot to Washington for weeks protesting to members of Con-

gress over the Teapot Dome deal. The feeling in the State over the matter seemed to insure the defeat of Representative Frank W. Mondell of Wyoming, Republican nominee against Senator Kendrick, Democratic incumbent. Now comes the word that the independent oil interests of Wyoming are, for political reasons to be placated, Mondell is Republican Floor Leader in the House and the local feeling in Wyoming against the Harding Administration over Teapot Dome spelled his defeat.

The latest development is that the influential independent oil interests in Wyoming are to be taken care of. Word reached Washington this week that in the Salt Creek fields forty-six leases are understood to have been granted to the Wyoming Associated Oil Company, comprising 4,210 acres; forty leases granted to Midwest Oil Company, comprising 1,690 acres, and sixteen leases granted to the Wyoming Oil Fields Company, amounting to 1,140 acres. The total of these leases comprises more than 7,000 acres. It is understood that an additional contract between these three companies with the Midwest Refining Company—a Standard Oil property—has been entered into by which the Midwest Refining Company markets all the oil and pays these companies for the crude oil in proportion as it receives prices for the refined product.

This appears to be in contravention of the general provisions of the law which limits one person, association or corporation to three oil leases in any one State, not to exceed 3,200 acres, but the advisers of Secretary Fall say there are exceptions in the statutes which cover this.

Inquiry at the department brought the statement that these leases have not been formally approved but that Secretary Fall gave representatives of these concerns a hearing recently and his informal verbal approval of the leases.

DOHENY CONTROLS CALIFORNIA NAVAL RESERVE.

Section No. 1 in Naval Reserve No. 1, in California, is under lease to the Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Company, a Doheny concern. This tract embraces 640 acres and adjoins the famous Tuppian lease of the Standard Oil Company, in the same Naval Reserve. When this lease was made a few months ago it was reported that the royalty was 20 per cent., with no bonus, but Secretary Fall's offices place the royalty figure at 55 1/2 per cent.

The Doheny people have been given another lease in the same district, covering a part of Section No. 2,

comprising 320 acres. The royalty is on a sliding scale basis, running between 12 1/2 and 45 per cent. These leases were made several months ago, with the secrecy which has surrounded all these matters under the Fall regime, without competitive bidding and without the payment of bonuses.

The reports of the Navy Department and the testimony of their officials in the past stated specifically that the Naval Reserve No. 1 in California, about fifty-nine square miles of highly valuable oil land, had few claims and could be kept intact for future use. The Navy Department was taking steps to protect the Government against the proposition of drilling by private companies on adjoining tracts, to guard against draining from this outside, when the executive order transferring all the reserves to Fall's department came like a bomb explosion.

It is learned that no naval officer dealing with the Naval Oil Reserves knew of the decision to make the transfer to the Interior Department until the order was made. After the transfer was made, there was a disagreement between Secretary Fall and the naval officers regarding certain lands in this Naval Reserve, but Fall won out. Leases were immediately made in Naval Reserve No. 1 of eleven wells to Doheny's company, and eleven wells to one of the Southern Pacific companies. Since that time several other important leases have been made to the Doheny interests in No. 1.

HONOLULU CASE ANOTHER SCANDAL.

Another circumstance which gave special significance to Fall's policy, with respect to the Government's oil properties, was his action in reviving what is known as the Honolulu case and deciding it against the Government after the Government, under his predecessor, had won a signal victory. The Honolulu Consolidated Oil Case has been one of the most controverted in the history of land cases in this country. It was based on the claim of this oil corporation to seventeen locations of land in Naval Reserve No. 2 in California, consisting of about 3,000 acres of highly valuable oil land.

On Feb. 11, 1919, the Commissioner of the General Land Office cleared these lands for patent. The Department of Justice, on behalf of the Navy Department, appealed from this decision as to thirteen applications.

The brief of the Department of Justice is pronounced by capable lawyers to be unanswerable. It shows clearly that these claims were fraudulent and indefensible. On June 17, 1920, Secretary of the Interior John Barton Payne made an adverse decision in this case reversing the Commissioner of the Land Office as to thirteen locations. This was hailed as a great victory for the Navy Department, because the Honolulu claims were the largest outstanding claims in a Naval Reserve. While this was under consideration efforts were made by legislation in Congress to secure these lands by a "seller" measure, but this plan was blocked. Secretary Payne had pronounced the

Honolulu claims as fraudulent and without any rights. These lands were the spearhead in the fight between the Navy Department officials and the Department of Justice against certain officials of the Interior Department and oil claimants, lawyers and lobbyists. After nearly ten years of struggle, the Government had won, seemingly, the fight for the navy fuel supply.

On Nov. 18, 1921, a little more than eight months after he assumed office, Secretary Fall permitted the Honolulu case to be reopened. The reopening decision by Secretary Fall granted a lease to the Honolulu Company for the seventeen locations, or about 3,000 acres of land in Naval Reserve No. 2. This lease was dated Feb. 11, 1922, and granted the Honolulu Company the "exclusive right and privilege to drill on 3,057.27 acres," which it had been trying to grab for many years.

In this connection a magazine article by Sir E. Mackay Edgar, a British authority, which has some bearing on the naval oil supply, is significant. He says:

"To my mind, the determining factor in the commercial prospects of the two countries is the progressive exhaustion or deterioration of some of America's most valuable natural resources."

"The time is coming, is, indeed, well in sight, when the United States, partly through reckless improvidence, exploitation and partly through natural process of exhaustion, will be

nearing the end of some of the available stocks of raw materials on which her industrial supremacy has been largely built. I am not sure that any land has had a Government hold enough and provident enough to make the most of its natural resources. In no department, perhaps, has the myopia of little men with little minds worked greater havoc."

"I propose to show, first that America is running through her stores of domestic oil and is obliged to look abroad for future reserves; and, secondly, that these reserves, constituting a key position in international industry, are very largely in British hands or controlled by British capital. Before very long America will have to come to us for the petroleum she needs."

"The great oil fields of the United States are nearing exhaustion, and it is not believed that the new ones being proved will yield anything like the old prodigal production."

THIRTY DAYS FOR BEGGAR WITH \$1,000.

"You have more money in the bank than I have," said Magistrate McGeehan in Jefferson Market Court today in imposing a sentence of thirty days in the workhouse on Harry Sher, an invalid of No. 148 Ridge Street, arrested Oct. 6 on a charge of soliciting alms in front of the Pennsylvania Hotel. A probation officer reported to the court that the defendant had savings accounts aggregating \$1,000. He also had \$50 at his home and \$6 in his pocket when arrested, it was said.

MAGISTRATE'S ADMIRER TAKES JAG TO COURT

Likes Judge's Advice and Gets It With Suspended Sentence.
When Thomas Harney, forty-five, of No. 5727 Moshulu Avenue, Bronx, was asked in Yonkers Police Court yesterday why he went into the court room intoxicated when not under arrest, he told Magistrate Doote it was because he liked to hear him talk.

Harney wandered in and took a seat. While the Magistrate was hearing cases

TEST OF MATERNITY LAW ORDERED BY U. S. SUPREME COURT.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—Massachusetts' request for permission to test the constitutionality of the Federal Maternity Law was granted to-day by the Supreme Court and the process ordered returned on Jan. 2, 1923.



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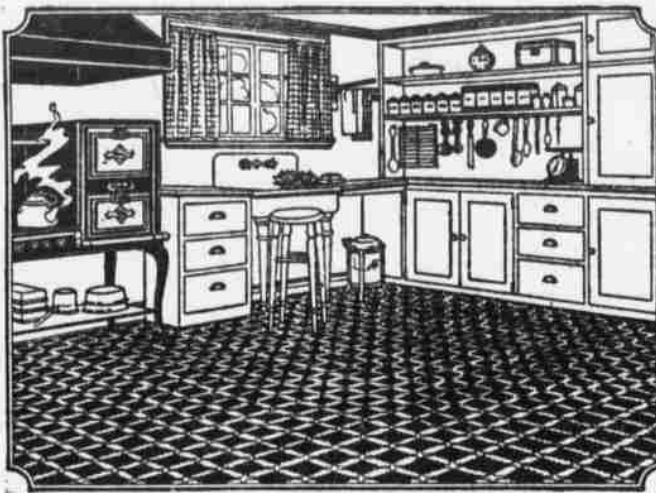
"If thou over-eatest at mid-day and art sluggish, then partake more lightly of food, my son, bringing dates unto thy desk; and behold thy pep."

—The Wise Man of the East

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IN THE PERSONAL PACKAGE

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Write for our booklet, "Decorative Linoleum Floors," which contains twenty-four color plates showing different patterns of Armstrong's Linoleum, suitable for any room in your house. Any good furniture or department store will show you the particular colors and designs you want, and will also give you estimates of the cost of Armstrong's Linoleum laid in your home.

But when you buy linoleum, remember what linoleum is. It has a burlap back that you can see. Some floor coverings are mistaken for linoleum that are not linoleum at all. They contain no cork, no linseed oil, and are not pressed on burlap. To be sure you are getting genuine linoleum, look for the Circle "A" trade-mark on the burlap back.

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